

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 CPR-01 FBIE-00 /058 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8845

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMCONGEN LENINGRAD PRIORITY

S E C R E T USUN 5785

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPERTY INTERESTS IN NEW YORK

REF: STATE 302645

1. PURSUANT TO DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS, WE CONTACTED NIKOLAI FIRYUBIN, CONSELLOR, SMUN, TO DISCUSS SOVIET PROPERTY INTERESTS IN NEW YORK. WE HAD LONG, INFORMAL CONVERSATION CONCERNING SITUATION IN UPPER BROOKVILLE, SKYVIEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, RIVERDALE COMPLEX AND CONNAUGHT TOWER.

2. FIRYUBIN ADVISED THAT SOVIETS CONTINUED TO ENCOUNTER SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN HOUSING THE LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET CITIZENS IN NEW YORK. HE STATED AT LEAST 300 FAMILIES WERE LIVING IN SEPARATE HOUSING UNITS IN NEW YORK CITY. THESE FAMILIES, HE SAID, DESIRED TO JOIN THEIR SOVIET COLLEAGUES IN A LARGE SOVIET COLONY, SUCH AS RIVERDALE COMPLEX. THEIR REASONS WERE PRIMARILY FOR SECURITY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY DESIRED COMPANIONSHIP OF THEIR SOVIET COLLEAGUES.

3. WE TALKED ABOUT SIX CABINS TO BE ERECTED IN UPPER BROOKVILLE. HE ADVISED THAT SOVIETS ARE IN A LEGAL POSITION TO ERECT TWO CABINS, BUT NEED TO OBTAIN A ZONING

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VARIANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF OTHER FOUR CABINS. HE LAMENTED FACT THAT DEPT WAS NOT WILLING TO GIVE ITS STRONG SUPPORT AND BACKING TO SOVIETS IN CONNECTION WITH APPROACHES TO VILLAGE OFFICIALDOM. HE STATED THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN REACHED ON WHETHER TO REQUEST ZONING VARIANCE.

4. FIRYUGIN CONFIRMED THAT A NUMBER OF SOVIET FAMILIES HAD TAKEN APARTMENTS IN SKYVIEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN BRONX. HE STATED THAT A TENANT HAD BEEN MURDERED IN LAUNDRY ROOM TWO WEEKS AGO, AND SOVIET HOUSEWIVES WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SAFETY.

5. HE ADVISED THAT SOVIETS ARE VERY HAPPY IN RIVERDALE, WITH NEIGHBORS AND POLICE BEING FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE. HE STATES SOVIETS CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN ERECTING A SECOND RIVERDALE TOWER, BUT ARE CONCERNED THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET A ZONING VARIANCE. HERE AGAIN, FIRYUBIN STRESSED WHAT HE FELT WAS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON SOVIET EFFORTS AS A RESULT OF STATE DEPT'S POSITION OF NOT BEING WILLING TO GIVE STRONG SUPPORT TO SOVIET ENDEAVORS.

6. FIRYUBIN SAID THAT TIME WAS A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR, REFERRING AGAIN TO SOVIET FAMILIES LIVING OUTSIDE SOVIET CONE. AS A RESULT, SOVIETS WERE ALSO LOOKING OUTSIDE RIVERDALE FOR HOUSING. ONE SITE WHICH WAS OF INTEREST, WAS CONNAUGHT TOWERS ON 54TH STREET AND 2ND AVENUE. SOVIETS WERE MODERATELY INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF RENTING OR PURCHASING BUILDING. HE ASKED IF DEPT WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO SOVIET MISSION RENTING OR BUYING BUILDING. HE ALSO ASKED IF UNDER TERMS OF SOVIET-US CONSULAR CONVENTION, SOVIETS WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAX IF THEY RENTED PROPERTY.

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8. WE THANKED FIRYUBIN FOR HIS FRANK COMMENTS ON SOVIET REAL PROPERTY PROBLEMS. WE PROMISED TO ASK DEPT FOR ITS VIEWS ON THE POSSIBLE RENTAL OR PURCHASE BY SOVIETS OF CONNAUGHT TOWERS AND ON THE TAX EXEMPTION QUESTION.

9. DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUESTED.
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
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